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**AMBASSADOR BARSHEFSKY APPLAUDS CONFIRMATION OF
SUSAN G. ESSERMAN AS DEPUTY U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky today announced the Senate confirmation of Susan G. Esserman as Deputy United States Trade Representative with the rank of Ambassador. Ms. Esserman has served as General Counsel to the Office of the United States Trade Representative since April 1997. Prior to serving as General Counsel at USTR, Ms. Esserman served as Acting General Counsel in the Department of Commerce, and as Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, a position in which she was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate.

"I want to thank the members of the United States Senate for their strong endorsement of Susan Esserman to serve as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative," said Ambassador Barshefsky. "Susan Esserman is a highly valued member of our team and brings a strong background in international trade policy and enforcement to this position. She has served as an extraordinarily effective General Counsel at USTR, and I look forward to working with her in her new role as Deputy USTR as we continue our efforts to open global markets and eliminate unfair trade barriers."

As Deputy USTR, Ms. Esserman will have responsibility for developing the U.S. agenda for the WTO Ministerial to be held in Seattle in November 1999, which will launch new global negotiations to expand opportunities for U.S. manufacturing, service, and agriculture industries and workers.

Ms. Esserman's portfolio will encompass the development of trade policy and negotiations in the World Trade Organization and other multilateral fora, as well as Europe, Russia and the Newly Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, the Middle East and Africa. In addition to serving in two senior posts at the United States Department of Commerce, Ms. Esserman was an attorney in private practice for 15 years, specializing in international trade matters.